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COMMITTEE ON THE INTERNATIONAL YEAR
FOR HUMAN RIGHTS
Item 4 of the provisional agenda

PROGRAMME OF MEASURES AND ACTIVITIES TO BE UNDERTAKEN IN CONNEXION WITH THE INTERNATIONAL YEAR FOR HUMAN RIGHTS

Note by the Secretary-General

1. At the request of the Government of Jamaica, an item entitled "Designation of 1968 as International Year for Human Rights" was placed on the agenda of the eighteenth session of the General Assembly; it was allocated to the Third Committee for consideration and report.

2. At its 1279th plenary meeting on 12 December 1963, the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the Third Committee,[1] adopted resolution 1961 (XVIII) on the designation of 1968 as International Year for Human Rights, which reads as follows:

"The General Assembly,

"Noting that the year 1968 will be the twentieth anniversary of the adoption and proclamation by the General Assembly of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights,

"Taking into account the fact that, since the adoption of the Declaration, a substantial measure of progress has been achieved in giving effect to these human rights and fundamental freedoms,

"Recognizing that in spite of such progress the effective realization of the human rights and fundamental freedoms proclaimed in the Declaration remains unsatisfactory in some parts of the world,

"Believing that the cause of human rights will be well served by an increasing awareness of the extent of the progress made,

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1/ See the report of the Third Committee (A/5660).

"Convinced that an appropriate way of celebrating the twentieth anniversary of the proclamation of the Declaration is to devote the year 1968 to intensified national and international efforts and undertakings in the field of human rights and also to an international review of the achievements in this field,

"Confident that the designation of the year 1968 as such a year of international review will encourage all Member States and interested organizations to intensify their efforts in the intervening years, so as to show the maximum possible progress by that time,

"1. Designates the year 1968 as International Year for Human Rights;

"2. Requests the Economic and Social Council to invite the Commission on Human Rights at its forthcoming sessions, with the assistance of the Secretary-General:

"(a) To prepare, for consideration by the General Assembly, a programme of measures and activities representing a lasting contribution to the cause of human rights, to be undertaken by the United Nations, by Member States and by the specialized agencies during the year 1968, in celebration of the twentieth anniversary of the adoption of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and in furtherance of the objectives of the present resolution;

"(b) To prepare, for consideration by the General Assembly, suggestions for a list of goals in the field of human rights to be achieved by the United Nations not later than the end of 1968;

"(c) To submit the programme of measures and activities and the suggestions for the list of goals in time for their consideration by the General Assembly at its twentieth session;

"3. Invites the specialized agencies to render all assistance to the Commission on Human Rights in the preparation of the programme of measures and activities to be undertaken during the International Year for Human Rights in celebration of the twentieth anniversary of the Declaration;

"4. Invites all Member States to intensify their domestic efforts in the field of human rights with the assistance of their appropriate organizations, in order that a fuller and more effective realization of these rights and freedoms might be achieved and might be reported at the proposed international review of such achievements in 1968 and thereafter."

3. On 17 December 1963 the Economic and Social Council, at its resumed thirty-sixth session, decided to forward the Assembly's resolution to the Commission on Human Rights.

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4. The Commission on Human Rights considered the item, "Designation of 1968 as International Year for Human Rights," at its 812th meeting on 14 March 1964.1/

5. In resolution 6 (XX) the Commission noted General Assembly resolution 1961 (XVIII) designating the year 1968 as International Year for Human Rights and shared the view of the General Assembly that, in spite of the substantial measure of progress which has been achieved in giving effect to human rights and fundamental freedoms since the adoption of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the effective realization of these rights and freedoms remains unsatisfactory in some parts of the world. Bearing in mind the broad objectives of achieving a set of goals in the field of human rights not later than 1968, and the preparation of a programme of measures and activities in the field of human rights to be undertaken by Member Governments and the specialized agencies during the year 1968, the Commission decided "that a Committee consisting of thirty-four members appointed from Permanent Delegations shall meet prior to the 1965 session, after consultation with the Secretary-General, to recommend a programme of measures and activities to be undertaken by Member States, the United Nations and specialized agencies in celebration of the Twentieth Anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and in the furtherance of human rights and fundamental freedoms." The Commission further decided "that, as a part of its terms of reference, the Committee should give special thought to the possibility of holding an International Conference in 1968 to (i) review the progress which has been made in the field of human rights since the adoption of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, (ii) evaluate the effectiveness of the methods and techniques used by the United Nations in the field of human rights, and (iii) formulate and prepare a programme of further measures to be taken subsequent to the celebration of Human Rights Year."

6. At its 814th meeting on 18 March 1964 the Commission decided that invitations to appoint representatives to the Committee established by operative paragraph 1 of resolution 6 (XX) should be addressed to all the States members of the Commission

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1/ See Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 37th session, Supplement No. 8, (E/3873) Chapter VII, resolution 6 (XX); and Chapter XI, draft resolution III.

on Human Rights and to the other co-sponsors of General Assembly resolution 1961 (XVIII), namely: Afghanistan, Argentina, Brazil, Ghana, Guatemala, Iraq, Ivory Coast, Jamaica, Nigeria, Saudi Arabia, Trinidad and Tobago, Uganda and Uruguay.

7. In resolution 6 (XX), the Commission also requested the Economic and Social Council to recommend to the General Assembly, for consideration at its nineteenth session, a draft resolution on the International Year for Human Rights, the text of which is annexed hereto. The Commission's request will be considered by the Council at its thirty-seventh session, to be convened on Monday, 13 July 1964 at Geneva.

ANNEX

DESIGNATION OF 1968 AS INTERNATIONAL YEAR FOR HUMAN RIGHTS

(Draft resolution for consideration by the General Assembly)

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 1961 (XVIII) of 12 December 1963 designating the year 1968 as International Year for Human Rights,

Recognizing the need for effective measures to be taken as both the international and the national levels to encourage the further development of human rights and fundamental freedoms,

Reaffirming the belief that the cause of human rights will be well served by an increasing awareness of the extent of the progress made, and the conviction that the year 1968 should be devoted to intensified national and international efforts and undertakings in the field of human rights and also to an international review of the achievements in this field,

Convinced that an intensification of efforts in the intervening years will heighten the progress that can be made by 1968,

1. Recommends that all Member States be invited to ratify before 1968 the Conventions already concluded in the field of human rights, and in particular, the following:

Supplementary Convention on the Abolition of Slavery, the Slave Trade and Institutions and practices similar to Slavery;

ILO Convention Concerning the Abolition of Forced Labour;

ILO Convention on Discrimination in Respect of Employment and Occupation;

ILO Convention concerning Equal Remuneration for Men and Women Workers for Work of Equal Value;

UNESCO Convention Against Discrimination in Education;

Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide;

Convention on the Political Rights of Women;

2. Decides to hasten the conclusion of the following draft Conventions so that they may be open for ratification and accession before 1968:

Draft Covenant on civil and political rights;

Draft Covenant on economic, social and cultural rights;

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Draft International Convention on the elimination of all forms of racial discrimination;

Draft International Convention on the elimination of all forms of religiou intolerance;

Draft Convention on freedom of information;

3. Decides to complete by 1968 the consideration and preparation of the following draft declarations:

Draft declaration on the elimination of discrimination in the matter of political rights;

Draft declaration on the elimination of discrimination in relation to wome

Draft declaration on the right of asylum;

Draft declaration on freedom of information.